

Cal/EPA Environmental Justice Action Plan
SWRCB Pilot Project Update for
Community Capacity Building – Klamath River

October 13, 2005

I. Lead Agency: State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)

II. Project Area: The Klamath River in both Oregon and California. The following Tribes have lands and/or interests in the Klamath River Watershed:

- Hoopa Tribe
- Yurok Tribe
- Karuk Tribe
- Klamath Tribes (Klamaths, Modocs, Yahooskin)
- Resighini Rancheria
- Quartz Valley Indian Tribe

Area Demographics: The Klamath River basin is located in Siskiyou County in inland northern California, adjacent to the Oregon border. As the fifth largest county in California by area, Siskiyou County features spectacular natural beauty and scenic cities and towns including Yreka, Mt. Shasta, Weed, Dunsmuir, McCloud, & Tulelake as well as Butte Valley, Scott Valley, Shasta Valley, & the Klamath River Corridor. As of 1998, the population of Siskiyou County was 44,700, which is roughly a population increase of 10,000 since 1970. The primary employment is retail trade and services. The unemployment rate of the County is 10%. Greater than 60% of the land within the County is currently managed by agencies of the Federal and State governments. These include: The U.S.D.A. Forest Service; Bureau of Land Management; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and California Department of Fish and Game. These lands are maintained in various National Forests; Parks; Wilderness Areas; National Grasslands; National Wildlife Refuges; and State Wildlife Areas.

The Tribes that occupy the region have close ties to this river. Their combined population according to the California Native American Heritage Commission is 12,411, of which 4,245 are under the age of 18. Their median income was \$26,875.

III. Project Start Date: July 2005 (3rd Quarter).

IV. Project Summary: The project will reduce or hopefully eliminate fish die-offs that have occurred in the region. The project will also increase the amount of productive habitat in an effort to restore historic higher populations of salmon; and allow the Tribes, as a primary stakeholder of interest, to enjoy the benefit of increased fishery production.

V. Project Status: The project has been selected and approved by the SWRCB and the EJ Interagency Working Group (IWG), but concurrence on the project has not yet been received from the Cal/EPA EJ Advisory Committee (CEJAC). SWRCB staff have made efforts to incorporate CEJAC suggestions into the project plan.

Revision to the Project Proposal by the Klamath Tribes includes the following:

- Representatives attending the meeting will serve as the Klamath EJ Advisory Group.
- The Klamath Advisory Group will communicate via email.
- The Tribes support the pilot project as described in the Water Board proposal, and have requested consideration of the following:
 - Recognition of the issue of transfer of the Tribes' economic benefits to other parties as part of the fishery issues analysis;
 - The Tribes identified as a government rather than a stakeholder;
 - A Klamath Tribes seat on CEJAC;
 - To revise the workplan to add tribal data on demographics and to update this info periodically;
 - Coordinate this project with US EPA;
 - Add the toxic algae blooms to the health effect discussion; and
 - Take a lead role in developing the research design, methods and implementation strategies.

Activities Completed:

- SWRCB met and discussed the project with Klamath Tribes over several months.
- Klamath Tribes met without SWRCB to discuss pilot project and re-write the project proposal.
- September 6, 2005, SWRCB meeting in Redding with Klamath Tribes to discuss Klamath Tribes revised project proposal. The SWRCB agreed to respond to the re-write of the project scope, and the Tribes have agreed to provide additional information.
- SWRCB gave an update presentation to CEJAC to share information of the project status and activities completed.

Future Activities:

- The SWRCB is reviewing the proposed revisions and will respond to the suggestions.
- Revision to the scope of project.
- The Klamath Advisory Group will meet again in late October/November 2005.
- When available, additional studies by Humboldt State, UC Davis and the Native American Health Clinic will be reviewed and utilized in health effects analysis.

VI. Challenges: The potential lack of health data tracking injuries or illnesses as a result of the loss of the fishery and dietary changes.

VII. Addressing Cumulative Impacts: Cumulative impact analysis is included in the pilot project plan. The development of tools for that analysis will be proposed as the project scope is completed.

- VIII. Addressing Precautionary Approach:** The State Board and the Regional Board are taking inventory of precautionary approaches that have been taken in the Klamath watershed. The inventory will be submitted as a component of the Precautionary Approaches Inventory Matrix being developed by the California Integrated Waste Management Board.
- IX. Original Proposed Project End Date:** Spring 2007. Issuance of a Clean Water Act section 401 certification by the State Water Resources Control Board in the **spring of 2007**.
- X. Revised Project End Date & Explanation for Delay in Timeline: Summer 2007.** The Project started during the third quarter of 2005, to ensure Klamath Tribes participation in the project. Consequently, the project implementation has been pushed back three months.
- XI. For More Information**
Please direct comments & questions to:

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